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SUBJECT: JANSAS SENT THE LIST OF CABINET CANDIDATES

1. (U) SUMMARY: On Wednesday afternoon, November 24, after the signing of a coalition agreement by all four presidents of the coalition parties, Prime Minister Janez Jansa sent a list of 16 proposed ministerial candidates to the National Assembly for approval. The National Assembly has seven days (until November 30) to approve the entire slate. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) The list of candidates with brief biographical information is as follows:

-- Dr. Dimitrij Rupel (SDS), nominated for Minister of Foreign Affairs, was foreign minister from 2000 -- 2004 (and previously 1990-1993), Slovene Ambassador to US (years 1997-2000), and Mayor of Ljubljana (1995-1997). He was dismissed as FoMin just before national elections in June of 2004. and He then left the Liberal Democratic Party to join Slovene Democratic Party deputy group and run for Parliament. He was also one of the initiators creators of the Assembly for the Republic. (Note: during elections, Rupel was listed as an "independent" on the SDS list. However, in recent press, he has been identified as a member of SDS, and Rupel has not made a point of disagreeing with this characterization.)

-- Dr. Gregor Virant [not affiliated but close to Jansa's SDS party] nominated as Minister for Public Administration, a newly established ministry under Jansa's government. Virant was a former State Secretary at the Ministry of Interior in charge of Public Administration reform, and creator of the Ministry of Public Administration. He was also a member of Jansa's Expert Council.

-- Dr. Vasko Simoniti [SDS], nominated as Minister of Culture, is a professor of History at the Philosophical Philosophy Faculty at the University of Ljubljana. and He was head of the presidential election campaign in 2002 for independent candidate Barbara Brezigar [supported by SDS and NSi].

-- Mr. Andrej Vizjak [SDS], nominated as Minister of Economy, is currently the mayor of Brezice and a member of parliament. His main goals as minister will be reforming government regulation of business, especially with respect to administrative barriers and taxation.

-- Mr. Andrej Brucan [SDS], nominated as Minister of Health, is vice-president of SDS and was the Minister of Health during Bajuk's government (2000). Since 1979 he has headed the Urgent Internal Medical Office of the Clinical Center in Ljubljana.

-- Dr. Milan Zver, [SDS] nominated as Minister of Education, is the President of the SDS Council and a professor of Sociology at Maribor University. He supports the idea of Bible study as an optional subject in primary school.

-- Mr. Dragutin Mate, [SDS] nominated as the Minister of Interior proposed by SDS, Interior is employed in the Ministry of Defense as Director of the Direction Directorate for Defense. He became known to the public as a the Slovene Defense Attach in Sarajevo [from 1996 to 1999] where he was reportedly collecting information on Slovene Ambassador Mirosic's private life. and thus He was recalled early back from his posting earlier. HeMate was also testifiedng in front of the Parliamentaryian Commission on pPost-independence wWeapons tTrade.

-- Ms. Marija Lukacic, nominated for Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and proposed by SDS (though not a party member), was the former Director of the Fund of Agricultural Land and Forests [1994 - 1999] where she was not very successful. In 2000 she was nominated for the Director of the Office for Denationalization and in 2001 she returned to the Ministry of Agriculture to head the Office for Natural Disasters.

-- Dr. Andrej Bajuk, [NSi] nominated as Minister of Finance, is the president of NSi and a former prime minister [transitional government in 2000]. Bajuk worked for the Interamerican Development Bank in various positions from 1977-2000. He strongly supports privatization in Slovenia,

especially of banks, however he has said indicated that the banks should stay in Slovene hands.

-- Dr. Lovro Sturm, [NSi] nominated as Minister of Justice,

is a professor of law at Ljubljana University. He is a former Constitutional Court Judge and was Minister of Education in 2000 during Bajuk's transitional government. He is the author of the draft Law on Religious Communities and Head of the Institute for the Law of Human Rights.

-- Mr. Janez Drobnic [NSi], nominated as Minister of Labor, Family and Social Affairs, was the former head of the NSi Deputy group in parliament. Before being elected MP in 2000, he was employed in the Ministry of Labor as an advisor. He strongly opposed the LDS initiative to legalize bio-medical help in insemination of single women and also the Law on Decriminalization of Prostitution.

-- Dr. Jure Zupan [NSi], nominated as Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, is a top Slovene scientist, specializing in chemistry and informatics. He initiated the idea of splitting the ministry of Education into two ministries.

-- Mr. Janez Podobnik [SLS], nominated for Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, is president of SLS and former president of the National Assembly ([1996 - 2000]). Recently, he was involved in the incident on the Slovene - Croatian border where he was roughly arrested by the Croatian police for refusing to show his identity card.

-- Mr. Janez Bozic [SLS], nominated as the Minister of Transport, is currently the President of the Direction for Highways of the Republic of Slovenia (DARS).

-- Mr. Karl Erjavec [DeSUS], nominated as Minister of Defense, is currently a State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. He took his current position as a member of SLS in 2000, when Ivo Bizjak [SLS] became the minister. (Grega - when/why did he switch parties?). In April 2004 when SLS left the coalition, newly appointed MoJ Zdenka Cerar wanted him to stay in the position and so he left the party. After few months he joined DeSUS.

-- Ms. Darinka Mravljak [SLS], nominated as Minister without portfolio in charge of Regional Development and Local Self-government, is a former Head of the Parliamentary Commission for the Policy of Equal Opportunities.

----- CONFIRMATION -----

13. (U) The next steps in establishing the GOS is as follows: are a few remaining steps before the government can be confirmed. First, the candidates will must have hearings in front of with the respective parliamentary committees within three to seven days after nomination. Next Then, the presidents of the committees give their opinions to the Prime Minister within 48 hours after the hearing. He then has three days to replace any candidate if he pleases. And finally, following this timeline, the government might be confirmed by the parliament in an urgent session as early as Tuesday, November 30, but more likely, it will be confirmed most likely confirmed on Thursday, December 2, 2004 during the regular parliamentary session.

----- CODE OF ETHICS -----

14. (U) When Jansa was elected for the PM Prime Minister in the National Assembly, he stated he would demand the a Codex of Ethics offer the Government of Slovenia to be signed by each member of the government. It is also a part of the coalition agreement. The Code of Ethics basically talks about is based on fundamental values of human life and dignity, freedom, honesty, solidarity and patriotism. The signature Signing of the code will bind ministers morally and ethically to perform their functions according to the laws ([not using professional information in for personal benefit gain, refusing of gifts, refusing privileges offered due solely because of to their functions positions, avoiding the conflicts of interest etc.s.)). Should abuse of office come to light in a manner which would be damaging to the reputation or work of the Government, individuals In case of any of abuses of office that would harm the respect of GoS or the work of government, all signatories are obliged themselves to offer their resignations to the Prime Minister.

----- COMMENT -----

15. (U) COMMENT: It is very likely Slovenia will get have its new government by the end of next week [December 3]. The coalition holds 49 votes plus two representatives of minorities that usually stick with the coalition. There are maybe two potentially controversial candidates for the ministers. The first one is proposed (and former) Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel who was dismissed from the ministerial position in June 2004 for his active participation in the Assembly for the Republic, that which joined aligned itself with political center-right parties before prior to national elections. In that regard he switched parties just before elections and thus got another chance to be the minister. As reported previously, Rupel quickly allied himself with Jansa and the SDS and has secured himself his old job in the new government. His former party [SDS] will definitely certainly oppose him in the Foreign Affairs Committee review and most likely the rest of the opposition [ZLSD and SNS] won't support him either will withhold support. But however, the fact is that parliamentary committees only give advisory opinions on each candidate, that which the Prime Minister is not obligatory obliged to follow it.

16. The second controversial and probably perhaps even more problematic candidate facing confirmation is Dragutin Mate for the Minister of Interior. He has been close to Jansa since Jansa became the Minister of Defense in 1990. During Mate's employment in the Ministry of Defense ([Defense Intelligence Office, Personnel Office) and as the Defense Attach in Sarajevo he got was involved in several affairs that might be reopened during his hearing in the Committee for the Defense hearing. In preparation for Mate's hearing, some SDS deputies already have demanded from the president of the National Assembly to provide the reports of the Commission ([from the previous composition of the parliament]) that investigated the weapons trading during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, so they can prepare for the hearing.

17. The two mentioned Rupel and Mate are likely the only two candidates that who will face intense questioning would sweat the most during their the hearings. At but at the end of the day, however, the parliament votes on the team entire slate of ministers as a whole package. and iWith only 46 votes needed for confirmation of the team, Jansa's coalition, which controls 49 votes, is expected to approve the proposed cabinet. It is expected the coalition will support it. They only need 46 votes and that has been already assured. END COMMENT.

ROBERTSON

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